

Section II: Functional Annexes

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to facilitate and coordinate the removal, collection, and disposal of debris following a disaster; and to mitigate against any potential threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the impacted citizens.

Situations and Assumptions

Natural and man-made disasters precipitate a variety of debris that includes, but is not limited to, such things as trees, sand, gravel, building/construction materials, vehicles, personal property, etc. A 6.0 earthquake in the Stillwater County area may generate up to 5.2 million dollars of damage. This could include potentially over 100 structures having at least moderate damage. This is based upon an estimate from the HAZUS-MH loss estimation computer model.

The quantity and type of debris generated from any particular disaster is a function of the location and kind of event experienced, as well as its magnitude, duration, and intensity. Major floods in Columbus and the Stillwater valley have not generated unmanageable amounts of debris to date. A major earthquake in the South Central part of the state, could potentially produce a larger amount of debris due to development, and would demand immediate attention.

The quantity and type of debris generated, its location, and the size of the area over which it is dispersed directly impacts the type of collection and disposal methods used to address the debris problem, associated costs incurred, and the speed with which the problem can be addressed.

In a major or catastrophic disaster, many state agencies and local governments have difficulty in locating staff, equipment, and funds to devote to debris removal, in the short as well as long term. Mutual aid and contracts with contractors will help to alleviate this problem. State law authorizes jurisdictions and departments to enter into mutual aid during a disaster or emergency without a written mutual aid contract. This will allow the agency in need of assistance to request aid from surrounding communities to clear debris following a disaster.

Private contractors can play a significant role in removal, collection, reduction, and disposal of debris. Recycling should be considered as a priority in the debris management program to eliminate land filling. Incineration will be used when permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Concept of Operations

1. General

The town of Columbus and Stillwater County Public Works Departments are responsible for managing the debris removal function. The Public Works Department personnel will work in conjunction with designated support agencies, utility companies, waste management firms, and trucking companies to facilitate the debris clearance, collection, reduction, and disposal needs of the town of Columbus, and Stillwater County following a disaster.

Because of the limited quantity of resources and service commitments following the disaster, the city and the county will be relying heavily on private contractors to remove, collect, and manage debris for reuse, resource recovery, reduction and disposal. Using private contractors instead of government workers in debris removal activities had a number of benefits. It shifts the burden of conducting the work from local government to the private sector, freeing up government personnel to devote more

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time to their routine work. Private contracting also stimulates the local economy impacted by the disaster, and it maximizes the local governments' level of financial assistance from the Federal government. Private contracting allows local governments to focus their contract services to their specific needs. The entire process, (i.e., clearance, collection, transporting, reduction, and disposal, etc.), or segments of the process may be contracted out.

The Public Works Departments will develop and maintain a list of approved contractors who have the capability to provide debris removal, collection, and disposal in a cost effective, expeditious, and environmentally sound manner following a disaster. The listing will categorize contractors by their capabilities and service area to ensure their effective utilization and prompt deployment following the disaster.

2. Direction and Control

The Public Works Department will be responsible for coordinating debris removal operations. The departments' director will form a Unified Command and will be responsible for managing the removal of debris from property under its own authority, as well as from private property when it is determined to be in the public interest.

3. Debris Management Actions

Preparedness: *(an emergency/disaster is threatening the local area)*

- Review and update plans, standard operating procedures, generic contracts, and checklists relating to debris removal, storage, reduction, and disposal process.
- Alert local departments that have debris removal responsibilities ensuring that personnel, facilities, and equipment are ready and available for emergency use.
- Relocate personnel and resources out of harm's way and stage in areas where they can be effectively mobilized.
- Review potential local, regional, and debris staging and reduction sites that may be used in the response and recovery phases in the context of the impending threat.
- Review resources listing of private contractors who may assist in debris removal process. Make necessary arrangements to ensure their availability in the event of the disaster.

Response:

- Activate debris management plan.
- Begin documenting cost.
- Coordinate and track resources (public and private).
- Establish priorities regarding allocation and use of available resources.
- Monitor debris going into the landfill; potentially use separate collection containers to collect debris associated with the disaster. This is to help measure the weight of the debris.
- Identify and establish temporary debris storage sites (e.g. parks, empty lots, solid waste disposal sites, etc). Temporary sites should:
 - Be on public property when feasible to facilitate the implementation of the mission and mitigate against any potential liability requirements.

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- Be readily accessible by recovery equipment.
 - Not require extensive preparation or coordination of use.
- Address any legal, environmental, and health issues relating to the debris removal process.
- Continue to keep public informed through the Public Information Officer (PIO). The public will be informed through the media how to expedite the cleanup process by:
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- Debris pick-up schedules will be announced on a regular basis.

Recovery:

Continue to collect, store, reduce, and dispose of debris generated from the event in a cost effective and environmentally responsible manner.

Continue to document costs.

Upon completion of debris removal mission, close out debris storage and reduction sites by developing and implementing the necessary site restoration actions.

Perform necessary audits of operation and submit claims for state and federal assistance.

4. Contracts and Cooperative Agreements

The county and cities will be responsible for managing the debris contract from project inception to completion. Managing the debris contract would include such things as monitoring of performance, contract modifications, inspection, acceptance, payment, and closing out of activities.

5. Debris Removal Priorities

The debris removal process must be initiated promptly and conducted in an orderly, effective manner in order to protect the public health and safety following a major or catastrophic event.

- A. Clear debris from key roads in order to provide access for emergency vehicles and resources into the impacted area. The need and demand for critical services will be increased significantly following a disaster.
- B. Debris removal resources will be assigned to provide access to critical facilities identified by county and city governments.
- C. Debris removal teams will address the elimination of debris related threats to public health and safety. This will include such things as the repair, demolition, or barricading of heavily damaged and structurally unstable buildings, systems, or facilities that pose a danger to the public. Any actions taken to mitigate or eliminate the threat to the public health and safety must be closely coordinated with the owner or responsible party. If access to the area can be controlled, the necessary actions can be deferred.
- D. The Town of Columbus will use snow routes to establish road priorities for debris clearance, and the county will use school bus routes.
- E. These buildings will be given priority for clearance:
 - 1) County Courthouse/Sheriff's Office/Dispatch Center
 - 2) Columbus Community Hospital
 - 3) Fire Departments
 - 4) City and County Shops
 - 5) Columbus City Hall

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- 6) Water and Wastewater treatment Plants
- 7) Schools (Priority to be assigned by the superintendent)
- 8) Stillwater County Solid Waste Transfer Sites.

6. Debris Classification

To facilitate the debris management process, debris will be segregated by type. It is recommended that the categories of debris established for recovery operations will be standardized. The categories of debris appear in Appendix K.1. Modifications to these categories can be made as needed.

Hazardous and toxic materials/contaminated soils and debris generated by the event will be handled in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

7. Storage Sites

There is usually available area at all the Solid Waste Collection Sites throughout the county. Currently Stillwater County has a contract with Yellowstone County for disposal of solid waste at their landfill. There are locations within the county that COULD potentially be used for burying debris if that was chosen as a better alternative. The cost involved by burying the debris in a landfill, either in Yellowstone County, or a potential site here in the county will be prorated between the jurisdictions affected by the disaster.

8. Authorities and Limitations

- ◆ The Incident Commander (IC) has authority to coordinate the use of resources and personnel at the scene of the emergency.
- ◆ The Commissioners have the authority to declare a State of Emergency within their jurisdiction and the responsibility to request a state or federal declaration if appropriate.
- ◆ Commissioners have the authority to enter into mutual aid agreements between their jurisdictions and other jurisdictions.
- ◆ The MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have the authority to close state and federal highways and bridge structures.
- ◆ The County Health Officer has broad authority over matters of public health to include air and water quality concerns, food supplies, wastewater systems, and disease prevention.
- ◆ The County Coroner's Office is the lead agency for the collection, storage, and disposition of all human remains and their personal effects.
- ◆ City officials have the authority to condemn a building in the city as unsafe to occupy.

9. Public Information

Providing Information to the Public

- The EOC will be responsible for all emergency public education and information.
- Once appointed, the Public Information Officer (PIO) will be responsible for public coordination and dissemination during the emergency and will clear all press releases through the Incident Commander or DESC. All approved press releases will be logged and a copy saved for the disaster records.

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Receiving Information from the Public

Providing adequate communications means to receive information from the public, such as damage reports, sanitation problems, health issues, offers for donated goods, and other public safety-related problems, is the responsibility of the Communications Unit Leader and the PIO. This will probably be done by staffing public information lines and publishing the telephone number through the local media. The PIO must also ensure the information received is communicated to the appropriate EOC section to deal with it.

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Appendix 1: Debris Classifications

Burnable Materials: Burnable Materials will be of two types with separate burn locations:

- **Burnable Debris:** Burnable debris includes, but is not limited to, damaged and disturbed trees; bushes and shrubs; broken, partial broken and severed tree limbs; and bushes. Burnable debris consists predominately of trees and vegetation. Burnable debris does not include garbage or construction and demolition materials debris.
- **Burnable Construction Debris:** Burnable construction and demolition debris consists of non-creosote structural timber, clean unpainted wood products, and other materials designated by the coordinating agency representative. DEQ is the coordinating agency.

Non-Burnable Debris: Non-burnable construction and demolition includes, but is not limited to, creosote timber, plastic, glass, rubber and metal products, sheet rock, roofing shingles, carpet, tires, and other materials as may designated by the coordinating agency. Garbage will be considered non-burnable debris.

Stumps: Stumps will be considered tree remnants exceeding 24 inches in diameter, but not taller than 18 inches above grade, to include the stump ball. Any questionable stumps shall be referred to the designated coordinating agency representative for the determination of its disposition. Stumps will be ground up in a tub grinder or buried.

Ineligible Debris: Ineligible debris to remain in place includes, but is not limited to, chemicals, petroleum products, paint products, asbestos, and power transformers. Any material that is found to be classified as hazardous or toxic waste, (HTW) shall be processed through standard county removal policies. Standing broken utility poles, damaged and downed utility poles, and appurtenances, transformers and other electrical material will be reported to the coordinating agency representative. Emergency workers shall exercise due caution with existing overhead and underground utilities and above ground appurtenances, and advise the appropriate authorities of any situation that poses a health or safety risk to workers on site or to the general population.

Animal Carcasses: Animal Carcasses may be either burned or buried. Either option must be completed as soon as possible. This will be accomplished under the guidance of Stillwater County Public Health Department and/or Department of Environmental Quality.